

King congratulates Pakistan

AMMAN (Petra) — His Majesty King Hussein sent a cable to Pakistani President Zia Ul Haq expressing good wishes to him on his country's Independence Day.

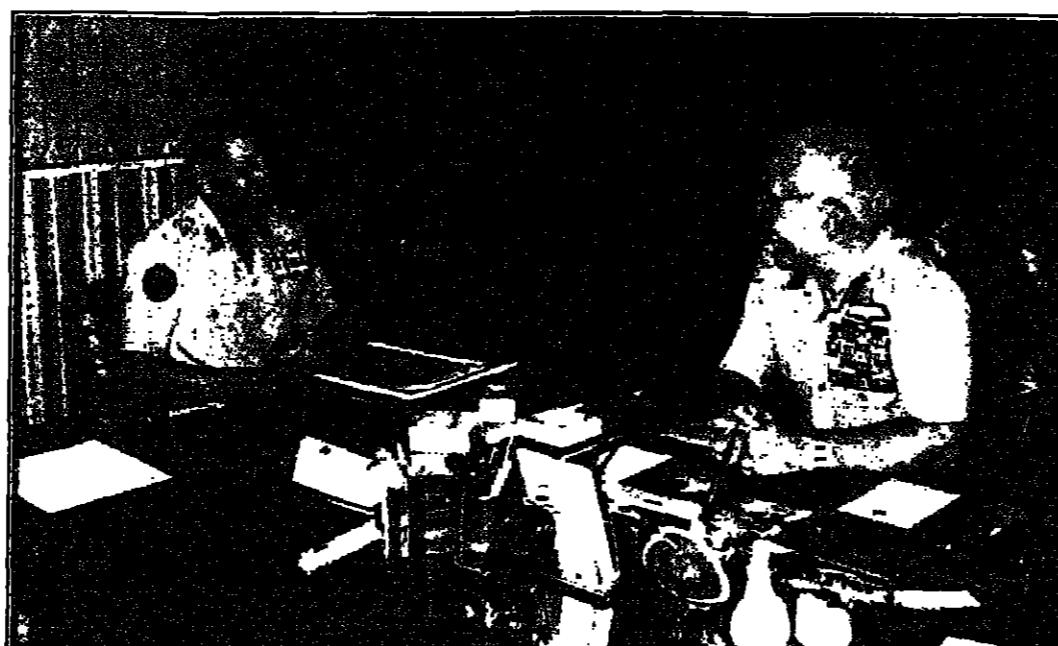
The King wished President Zia continued health and happiness and the Pakistani people progress and prosperity.

The King, meanwhile, received a cable of good wishes on the anniversary of his accession to the throne from French President Francois Mitterrand.

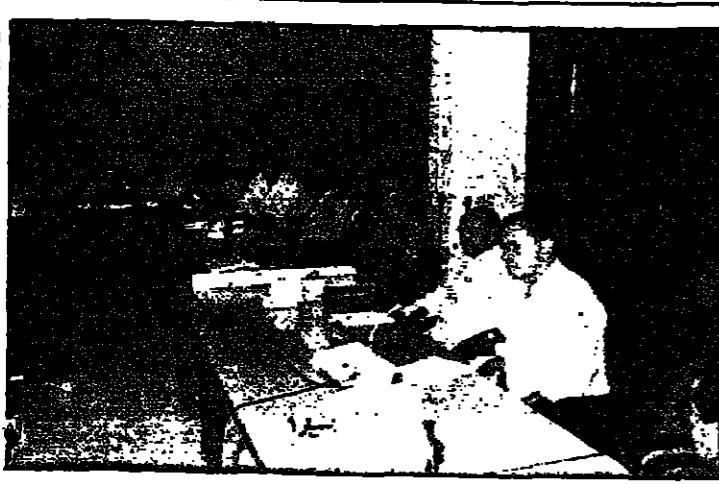
The president wished the King continued health and happiness, praising the existing ties of friendship between the Jordanian and the French people.

King Hussein received a similar cable from French Prime Minister Michel Rocard.

On the occasion of the King's accession to the throne, a huge rally was held at the University of Jordan. The students carried posters and King Hussein's portrait as they marched across the campus.



AL HUSSEIN VISITS GHQ: His Majesty King Hussein, the Supreme Commander of the Jordanian Armed Forces, Saturday visited the army headquarters and was met by the Armed Forces Commander in Chief Field Marshal Sharif Zaid Ibn Shaker, Army Chief of Staff Fathi Abu Taleb and their aides as well as the commander of the Royal Jordanian Air Force. The King held a brief meeting with Sharif Zaid and later heard a briefing on the Armed Forces (Petra photo)



Her Majesty Queen Noor Saturday chairs a meeting at the Aqaba Region Authority during which the region's development plans and environment were discussed (Petra photo)

Queen voices concern over Aqaba environment

AMMAN (Petra) — Her Majesty Queen Noor has expressed concern about environment problems in the Gulf of Aqaba emanating from phosphate powder and its effect on public health and maritime life — knowing that the Red Sea coast abounds with rare maritime which Jordan, the international organisations, and the Royal Society for the Protection of the Environment have been trying to protect from the danger of pollution.

The Queen was on a visit Saturday to the phosphate loading station in Aqaba where the Phosphate Company director general briefed her on the company's projects and future plans to address the problem of phosphate powder. Her Majesty was accompanied by Minister of Tourism Zuhair Ajlouni, the president of Aqaba Region Authority, and the president of the Royal Society for the Protection of the Environment.

Queen Noor also chaired a meeting of the Aqaba Region Authority during which the president of the Aqaba Region Authority senior officials.

NATIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

ENVOY TO SYRIA NAMED: The cabinet Saturday named Nayef Al Hadid as ambassador to Syria. During a regular session, chaired by Prime Minister Zaid Rifai, the cabinet also approved an Arab cooperation agreement on the field of aid and relief.

ART EXHIBITION: An exhibition by expatriate Jordanian artist Edward Horan opened at the Royal Cultural Centre in Amman Saturday under the patronage of Her Royal Highness Princess Basma. Horan's exhibition here, will last until Aug. 18.

PUBLIC RALLY FOR IRAQ: The National Jordanian Popular Committee for Supporting the Iraqi People will hold a public rally Wednesday on the occasion of Iraqi Armed Forces victories in the battlefield. Several notable speakers will address the rally which will be held at the Hussein Youth City.

YOUTH CAMP OPENS: A youth camp opened Saturday at the Ajloun permanent camping site. Participants in the week-long camp will hear lectures on the Great Arab Revolt and will take part in seminars and cultural activities. They will also tour a number of tourist and archaeological sites.

Hammouri to visit Egypt

AMMAN (Petra) — Minister of Culture and National Heritage Mohammad Hammouri received an invitation from his Egyptian counterpart to visit Egypt and discuss cooperation between Egypt and Jordan in cultural fields.

The visit is expected to take place early next month during which the minister will tour various Egyptian cultural centres, according to an announcement here.

The announcement also said the Ministry of Culture received an invitation to take part in an Arab book exhibition to be held in Doha, Qatar in November. The ministry said it will participate in the exhibition, displaying 60 books.

Jordan gets 1,582 tonnes of West Bank produce

AMMAN (Petra, J.T.) — The total amount of fruits and vegetables that crossed into the East Bank from the occupied West Bank and the Gaza Strip last month were estimated at 1,582 tonnes, according to a Ministry of Agriculture's statistical bulletin.

The bulletin said the shipments included 285 tonnes of onions, 237 tonnes of bananas, 809 tonnes

of peaches, 91 tonnes of carrots, 37 tonnes of cactus fruit, 22 tonnes of grapes, 84 tonnes of boiled cheese and 17 tonnes of honey.

Normally these products are marketed in the East Bank. However, some of them find their way to neighbouring Arab countries.

WHAT'S GOING ON

EXHIBITIONS

- Photo exhibition at the University of Jordan.
- Architectural exhibition at the Jordan National Gallery of Fine Arts.
- Art exhibition: "Silent Nature" at the University of Jordan.
- Paintings exhibition by Edward Horan at the Royal Cultural Centre.

VTC plans to expand training programmes

AMMAN (Petra, J.T.) — The Ministry of Labour's Vocational Training Corporation (VTC) plans to expand its programmes and training services for young men and women, enlisting the help of the private sector to attain the best results, VTC Director General Burhan Shreideh announced Saturday.

The VTC plans to expand horizontally and vertically, providing training in a wide variety of specialisations for 30,000 apprentices

in the 1986-1990 five year plan, Shreideh said at the opening of five courses at Ain Al Basha Vocational Training Centre, near Sweileh for VTC instructors.

The instructors teach trainees skills in carpentry, decor, and machine maintenance, according to VTC official.

Shreideh, in an address to the participants in the week-long course, said the national economy and development "can only be promoted through the proper recruitment of instructors who can skillfully teach the trainees."

A total of 8,802 trainees have graduated from VTC centres since the establishment of the corporation 11 years ago.

Last year's trainees numbered 11,000, Shreideh noted.

Out of the 30,000 to receive training within the five-year plan, 10,000 will take short term courses because of employment in private and public organisations and companies, according to Shreideh.

He said the VTC cooperates with 22 businesses that offer practical training to the apprentices and send employees to VTC centres for higher training.

In implementing the VTC's five year plan, four additional vocational training centres will be established in the Kingdom in the coming two years and five smaller ones will be opened adjacent to major industrial organisations, Shreideh noted.

These trainees are needed, he said, to meet the growing demand for skilled manpower in the Arab and Jordanian labour markets.

On Aug. 6, the VTC opened a two-week seminar for VTC instructors. Shreideh then announced that the door was open for training courses at VTC centres. He added that this year no less than 3,400 trainees would be accepted at different centres.

Most of those to be recruited for the new courses, Shreideh said, will be students who completed their third preparatory school but failed to pass the Ministry of Education's admission examinations to secondary school last June.

Earlier this month, the VTC announced it had embarked on short-term training programmes for all able-bodied Jordanians seeking employment in the construction business, hotel management, sales and ready made clothing industries.

The programmes, which are free of charge, were said to last between two and five months, offering participants sufficient skills for employment.



Vocational Training Corporation (VTC) Director General Burhan Shreideh Saturday addresses a new VTC course at Al Basha Training Centre, near Sweileh (Petra photo)

West German team to discuss agricultural schemes in Jordan

AMMAN (Petra, J.T.) — A delegation from West Germany is due here on Aug. 21 to discuss with Jordanian officials agricultural schemes being implemented with help from the West German Development Agency.

The Agency is supplying financial and technical assistance to these projects under a 1989-1990 agreement.

To prepare for the talks with

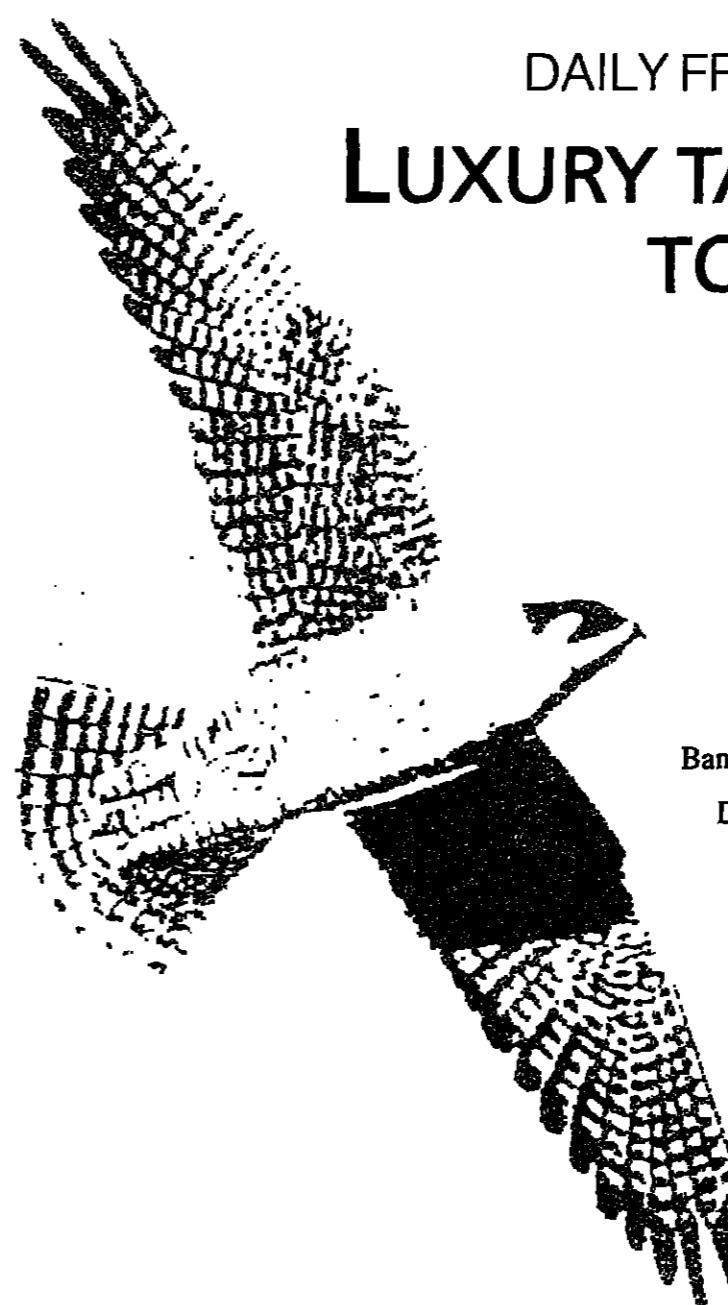
the West German team, Agriculture Minister's Secretary General Salem Al Lawzi chaired a meeting Saturday at his office, reviewing agricultural projects that could benefit from German assistance between 1988 and 1990.

Last October, Jordan and West Germany exchanged notes on technical cooperation, including a West German offer to set up a

laboratory for controlling the quality of plant protection agents with a view to preserving public safety.

The notes encouraged Germany to assign a group of experts, supply material and equipment for the implementation of the project. The overall cost of the project was estimated at two million German marks.

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Dialogue should replace guns

THE FUTURE of Lebanon may be more clear by the end of this week, when the surviving members of the country's parliament elect a new president for a six-year term to succeed Amin Gemayel. Saturday's announcement by Parliament Speaker Hussein Huseini that the house would meet Thursday for the elections signals that there is basic agreement among the various factions over the need to go ahead with the constitutional process. While it might be jumping the gun to deduce that this agreement encompasses the requirements of peace in the country and the role the president has to play in realising them, we take the behind-the-scenes consultations that produced Saturday's announcement as a good omen.

The Lebanese deputies, who will gather Thursday for the election process, will do so under the anxious eyes of the Arab World and the international community, as the next president would be the focal point in making or breaking hopes for a stable and secure Lebanon. To be sure, the Lebanese at large, who have no direct say in deciding who their president should be, are hoping that the deputies name the best man for the job of putting an end to 13 years of bloodshed and misery. However, it is a very delicate and complex task that lies ahead for whoever emerges as president after Thursday's elections. It is not bed of roses that awaits him at the presidential palace. Ever-present suspicions and deep hostilities have become permanent features of the Lebanese political scene, and the president faces the prospect of having to walk a very thin line among them if he hopes to achieve national reconciliation — the only answer to restoring security and stability in the country and to rebuilding its unity and territorial integrity. We can only hope the token respect for the constitution among the various factions, as evident in their present jockeying for their candidates for the presidency, also extends to accepting that enough is enough, and that it is time that dialogue replaces the thunder of guns to bring about changes, justice and peace.

ARABIC PRESS EDITORIALS



Al Ra'i: Avoiding outbidding

In all its actions and through all the measures it has issued so far, Jordan has wished to avoid situations where it would seem it is outbidding others in serving national causes. Jordan has always sought to achieve agreement and consensus among Arab countries and never acted to sow seeds of dissension among them. For this reason, Jordan hopes that its current negotiations with the PLO would not be distorted by other Arab countries since both sides require a positive and healthy climate in order to work out a formula for helping the Arab brothers under Israeli rule. The Palestine issue is now going through a critical stage, requiring support for the Jordanian-PLO moves on the part of the Arab Nation. Jordan should be supported by all Arabs in its decision to offer the PLO full responsibilities in dealing with the Palestine question and in its drive to place Israel face to face with the realities in the occupied territories. Regardless of Jordan's severing of legal and administrative ties with the West Bank, Amman has pledged to maintain all possible help to the Palestinian people, and therefore meaningful backing should be given to Jordan's endeavours in cooperation with the PLO.

Al Dustour: Solidarity with Sudan

IN yet another manifestation of its solidarity with all Arab countries, Jordan has decided to dispatch urgently needed food and medical supplies to the Sudanese people who are now facing the terrible consequences of floods. The decision expresses a national stand and reflects the Jordanian leadership's readiness to offer speedy help to Arab citizens in distress, especially the Sudanese people who have been subjected to one ordeal after another. The new consignments of food and medical supplies complement those which Jordan had been sending to Sudan to help that country's people overcome the consequences of drought and famine that hit the country over the past two years. We indeed hope that Jordan's humanitarian example will be copied by other Arab countries and we also hope that the Jordanian people will respond favourably to a call by the national committee for solidarity with Sudan to extend financial and in-kind help to their brothers to alleviate their sufferings. Any assistance offered to the Sudanese people can only reflect true affection and compassion among the Arab people, and any humanitarian assistance will be a noble act among brothers.

Sawt Al Shaab: Direct negotiations

ARAB people who truly wish to serve the higher Arab interests and are committed to the cause of peace have expressed total support for Jordan's decision to sever legal and administrative links with the West Bank. They realise that such a move can only promote the role of the PLO as the sole, legitimate representative of the Palestinian people; and help Jordan to become even more active in regional, international and national arenas. Arab leaders are supporting the Jordanian decision since they supported this move at the recent Algiers Arab summit, and the PLO has welcomed the move, saying it will help them to play a leading role in serving the Palestinian people on all fronts. Most importantly, the Jordanian decision is bound to place the Israeli leaders in a difficult position, forcing them to deal with the Palestinians directly following years of denial of the Palestinian people's rights and their adamant position with regard to the Middle East international peace conference. By responding favourably to the PLO and Arab states, Jordan has acted with wisdom. By pledging continued support to the Palestinians it showed its total commitment to the Arab causes.

Sunday's Economic Pulse

West Bank separation won't affect economy

By Dr. Fahed Fanek

ECONOMIC analysts may speculate that the recent measures to sever legal and administrative ties with the West Bank will have some adverse consequences on the Jordanian economy, especially as far as the volume of expatriate remittances, the prices at the Amman stockexchange and Jordan dinar position are concerned.

We argue that these fears are unfounded. The decision did not create new economic realities, it only formally recognised what was already established on the ground.

Expatriate remittances are of course sensitive to many factors. They declined by 15 per cent in 1987 without any measures taken, and rose in the first half of 1988 for no political reasons.

Remittances can be classified into two parts. The first part heads for the West Bank as a final destination. This part can be estimated at 30 per cent of the total remittances and will continue because there is no better way to channel the funds. If that trend did not continue, it will not influence the Jordanian economy, or the real balance of payments, as distinct from the official statistical balance of payment, which does not recognise remittance while moving on to the West Bank.

The second part of the remittances, up to 70 per cent of the total, heads for the East Bank as a final destination, and will not be affected by the measures in any way.

From a different point of view, the remittances can be classified by purpose into two categories: First, remittances for consumption expenses sent to families and relatives for their living expenses. This part is estimated to be above 80 per cent, and is not

likely to change because its volume is determined by the level of income of the expatriate concerned, and the needs of the family staying behind. Second, remittances made for investment and saving purposes, amounting to 20 per cent. This part is admittedly very sensitive, not to political factors though, but to economic and financial considerations, such as return on investment, rate of interest, and perceived degree of risk. Those economic factors were obviously not influenced by the recent measures, and should not cause any drop.

The expatriates' remittances may nevertheless fluctuate up or down. If this happened it should be explained by many factors not including the subject measures.

The analysts also look at Amman stockexchange as a possible crisis area. The West Bankers, they suspect, may dump their portfolios of Jordanian companies' shares.

Once more the prices in any stockexchange are sensitive to fundamental and psychological factors. There is no doubt that the measures do not amount to an economic factor. The economics of the companies and their profitability will not be influenced by the measures.

Any change in prices, therefore, must be psychological and accordingly temporary. The prices did drop by some three per cent in the first week until last Monday. Later on they bounced back when dealers realised that they have over-reacted. By the way, all Arabs, much more the Palestinians, are allowed and encouraged to own any amount of Jordanian shares without limitation. Dividends are tax

exempt in Jordan.

Those who may push the prices of shares down in order to unload their portfolios will be punishing themselves.

The third area cited by observers is the Jordanian dinar. No one knows for sure the amount of dinars held by the West Bankers in cash. We estimate that they hold around JD 140 million. West Bankers also invest their savings in the Jordanian banking system. We estimate their deposits at JD 360 million. Thus the overall amount of dinars owned by West Bankers could add up to JD 500 million, or 20 per cent of the money supply widely defined.

What would happen to these amounts? I venture to answer: Nothing, until an independent Palestinian state is established. Even then the dinar may continue as legal tender in such a state for at least two more years. The Palestinian pound continued in circulation in Jordan until 1950.

The political measures as such has no direct bearing on the dinar. Dinar holders in both banks have full confidence in the Jordanian banking system and the Central Bank of Jordan. They know for sure that their rights are 100 per cent safe and protected.

West Bankers' deposits are divided among all commercial banks and financial corporations. However, the major part is held with Arab Bank, a very strong and trustworthy bank at domestic and international levels.

To sum up, the economic impact of the recent measures are minimal, and the Jordanian economy should not be adversely affected.

The imperatives pushing North Africa towards unity

By Francis Ghiles

THE reopening, in June, of the frontier between Algeria and Morocco, North Africa's two most powerful countries, has evoked a strong and favourable popular response. The officially controlled media in the two countries praised the vision and sense of history of their respective leaders. This was hardly a surprise.

For the mass of Algerians and Moroccans, however, the promise of greater freedom of travel, trade and economic cooperation holds great appeal. The 12-year break between the two countries, caused by their dispute over the status of the former Spanish colony of the Western Sahara, was viewed by many of the more thoughtful North Africans, and not just in the two countries concerned, as a tragedy.

"The 12-year break between Algeria and Morocco was viewed as a tragedy."

The dispute over the Western Sahara has yet to be resolved but the break in diplomatic relations it brought in February 1976 was, in many respects, the logical result of the competition for regional influence between Morocco, the Muslim world's oldest monarchy, and Algeria, a state born of a cruel war of liberation against France. That conflict cost one million dead and witness the exodus of an equal number of European settlers.

King Hassan of Morocco is *'Amir al-Mu'minin'* (commander of the Faithful) and *'Khalifat Allah Fil-Ard'* (Allah's deputy on earth). The legitimacy of the Alaoui dynasty which has ruled Islam's most western lands for over three centuries rests on the dual foundation of historical tradition and the religion of the Prophet Mohammad.

The monarch has, especially during the early years of his reign, successfully defeated agitation by the major opposition parties and students and survived riots and attempted military coups.

Despite extremes of wealth and poverty, regional disparities and a bloated public sector, Morocco has made a far greater success of its agriculture than virtually any other African or Middle East country. It is actively developing its fishing, textile and tourist industries. More recently, its minister of finance, Mr. Mohammad Barrada, has shown real courage in confronting vested interests and trying to implement bold economic reform. This policy enjoys the support of the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund, both of which have lent considerable amounts of money to the kingdom. The United States has long looked on King Hassan as its paramount friend in North West Africa. The monarch has kept a line open to Israeli leaders — indeed he received Shimon Peres, then the Israeli prime minister, in Ifrane two years ago. He sent troops to Zaire to help President Mobutu ten years ago. He has provided help for Jonas Savimbi, the leader of UNITA.

Such policies have long been anathema to Algeria's foreign policy establishment. Algerian leaders, especially throughout the Ben Bella and Boumedienne years — the country's first two presidents up to 1979 — wanted to fight injustice wherever they could in the world. Hence they gave enthusiastic support to the Palestine Liberation Organisation, the African National Congress and many other liberation movements. They allowed the USSR to refuel their Antonov transport planes when airlifting arms and munitions into Luanda ten years ago. Algeria espoused the more radical OPEC policies and waged a bitter fight with

French companies to recover its oil and gas assets. No liberation movement worth its salt would have missed having offices in Algiers in the 1970s.

Algeria's foreign policy is less stridently expressed these days, a change which reflects both the manner of the man who has held the reins since 1979, Chadli Benjedid, and a maturing process which has turned the go-getting revolutionaries of yesterday into people more aware of how difficult it is to change things, be it at home or abroad. The high quality of many of its diplomats and the serious and steady manner in which it conducts its foreign policy continue to earn Algeria an influence in African and Middle East affairs and beyond, far in excess of the country's economic resources. Its success in securing the release of the U.S. diplomats held hostage in Tehran seven years ago ranks among the classics of international diplomacy.

Two sets of factors are conspiring to bring not just Algeria and Morocco but Libya, Mauritania and Tunisia closer together. The challenges of a fast rising population; even in Tunisia, where long-standing efforts to promote family planning and women's rights have produced encouraging results, and the need to create more jobs than at present are pressing.

The weight of foreign debt, which precludes Morocco and Mauritania from raising fresh private funds and severely hampers the abilities of both Algeria and Tunisia to do so weighs heavily on economic development. The need, in all five countries, to reform the bloated parastatal companies and give greater freedom of action to the private sector requires the full attention

of the rulers.

As Libya's maverick leader, Colonel Qadhafi, rediscovered the virtues of private retailing after years of an economic policy which has left the shops in this oil rich country with nothing to sell except basic foodstuffs, Algeria is implementing a bold policy of selling off state land to private farmers and slowly freeing its export policies. At the same time, Tunisia is pushing through a package of reforms agreed with the IMF faster than any of its Maghreb peers; and Morocco is facing up to the simple truth that as long as its entrepreneurs pay neither personal nor company tax, the state will be in no position to raise the pool level of education, let alone bring that of the country below the poverty line into the monetary economy. In all five countries the state holds so much power that it is no exaggeration to say that it is often crippled by its constituent parts. 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Middle East News

Iran rebels free 1,300 prisoners

By a Jordan Times Staff writer

AMMAN — The Iranian dissident movement, Mujahideen-e-Khalq, has announced the release of 1,300 Iranians taken prisoner during its offensives in the last two months against Iranian borders.

A statement telegraphed to the Jordan Times Friday said the general command of the Mujahideen's National Liberation Army (NLA) the prisoners were released Thursday under the orders of Mujahideen leader Massoud Rajavi, president of the National Council of Resistance and commander-in-chief of the NLA.

The statement said the released Iranians had been taken prisoner in operations conducted by the NLA.

The NLA general command also reported that 850 of the released prisoners requested to join the NLA.

This was the third group of prisoners released in the past nine months. About 370 were released by the NLA in November 1987 and March 1988.

The NLA also denied Saturday that the commanders of 15 of its divisions and brigades were killed in fighting inside Iran last month.

Another statement telegraphed to the Jordan Times late Friday said that only three brigade commanders were killed and no division commanders.

The statement said Iranian Revolutionary Guards corps commander Mohsen Rezaei Friday "attempted a false show of strength by claiming that the commanders of 15 NLA divisions and brigades were among those killed."

"This is a totally false claim: The commander of no NLA division was killed in the operation, which took them 150 kilometres

inside Iran. These commanders are all present in their command posts."

It said the NLA had announced the names of the three dead commanders over the Mujahideen's radio during the operation.

The NLA said July 29 its forces had withdrawn after occupying towns deep inside Iran for three days. Iran said it had lured the rebels in, trapped them and killed more than 4,800 in 48 hours of fighting.

Iran's acceptance of a ceasefire in its war with Iraq has cast doubt on continued Iraqi support for the Mujahideen-e-Khalq, who seek to topple the regime of Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini in Tehran. But the Mujahideen have vowed that they would continue their anti-Khomeini struggle regardless of the course of the Iran-Iraq war.

In a statement telegraphed to the Jordan Times Thursday, Rajavi described Iran's acceptance of the ceasefire as a sign of "the failure of all (of) Khomeini's war-mongering policies and the destruction of a major portion of his apparatus of war and repression." Rajavi congratulated the people of Iran "and all opponents of Khomeini's belligerence."

According to repeated assertions of Khomeini himself, peace marks the beginning of the inevitable burial of the Khomeini regime," the statement said. "The National Council of Resistance and the National Liberation Army of Iran have been the most important elements of struggle against the Khomeini regime's warlike policies in Iran and abroad and the most effective factor destroying Khomeini's apparatus of war and repression in the past seven years, forcing him to submit to ceasefire and peace."



National Liberation Army (NLA) fighters in the Iranian town of Mehran during an NLA offensive in June. The NLA evacuated the town a few days later.

The religious dictatorship ruling Iran has no tolerance for peace, stability, tranquility, and economic and social progress. Lasting peace can only be realized by the overthrow of this regime and the establishment of freedom and national sovereignty. The viewpoints of the Iranian people's just resistance for peace and freedom.

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Vassiliou sees beginning of end to Cyprus conflict

NICOSIA (R) — Cyprus President George Vassiliou said Saturday he saw forthcoming talks with Turkish Cypriots as the beginning of the end of the 14-year division of the island.

"I look at the negotiations as the beginning of the end... otherwise there would have been no point in entering negotiations," Vassiliou told Reuters in an interview.

Vassiliou will meet Turkish-Cypriot leader Rauf Denktash in Geneva Aug. 24 for landmark talks brokered by U.N. Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar.

The talks aim to set a date and framework to resume negotiations on reunifying Cyprus, split since 1974 when Turkey seized the northern third of the island after a short-lived coup engineered by the military junta in Athens.

Greek and Turkish Cypriot leaders have not met since 1985 when talks in New York between

Denktash and Vassiliou's predecessor Spyros Kyprianou collapsed.

Vassiliou, a self-made millionaire and political novice elected six months ago in a groundswell for change on the Greek-Cypriot side, will meet Denktash for the first time.

"I am interested to see what kind of climate will be created," he said. "It is obvious that it is always very important to establish a working relationship and a personal relationship."

Professing cautious optimism over the talks, Vassiliou said: "I'm expecting these will be difficult, cumbersome sometimes, and arduous negotiations, but I'm going there with the conviction and the determination to make everything possible for the negotiations to succeed."

Vassiliou said a new world climate was conducive to negotiations and the solution of regional conflicts.

King explains W. Bank decision to PLO team

(Continued from page 1)

a Palestinian government then we will bravely tell our people it is not possible for the time being," Khalaf said.

In a separate interview with the weekly Al Usbu Al Arabi, Khalaf said:

"Our people were against the Jericho conference (of 1950) and those who attended the conference were not real or elected representatives of the Palestinian people because our people were recovering from their wounds."

The meeting was attended by Prime Minister Zaid Rifai, Royal Court Chief Marwan Al Qasem and Court Minister Adnan Abu Odeh.

Commenting on Jordan's decision to sever formal ties with the West Bank, Al Siyassa newspaper of Kuwait said Saturday that the measures, as the King said, affect the occupied Palestinian land and not the Palestinians living in Jordan and were designed to give the PLO the full responsibility in the endeavours to regain the usurped lands.

Al Jumhuriyah newspaper of Cairo paid tribute to the King for his endeavours to rally the Arabs and strengthen their solidarity. It described the King's decision as courageous since he gave the PLO leadership the whole responsibility for the Palestinians and their future.

Khalaf welcomes move

Salah Khalaf, a senior member of Fatah, the biggest PLO faction, has praised the Jordanian move. Al Bayan daily of the United Arab Emirates quoted Khalaf as welcoming the Jordanian step as a "courageous decision (that) enables the Palestine Liberation Organisation to shoulder its responsibility and take over new political rights."

Khalaf said the Arab World must back any plans by the PLO to form a government-in-exile or the idea would be scrapped. The proposal is expected to be discussed at a meeting of the Palestine National Council (PNC) which Algeria has agreed to host.

"If we find Arab states oppose

Palestine," he said. "We, along with Jordan, the Arabs and the international community, bear the complete responsibility...."

The people in the West Bank and Gaza are united on one issue — self-determination and the establishment of a Palestinian state," he said. "A state would solve all the problems of the Palestinian people... If the passport problem is solved then the problems of bridges, sales of West Bank and Gaza produce and students will remain to be solved. All these problems could be solved by the creation of a Palestinian state."

He said the Palestinians were always offered a "choice between two evils: what Israel calls the Jordanian option or autonomy in accordance with the Camp David accords. The intifada has surprised both."

"For the first time we see a Jordanian recognition of the Palestinian identity on the highest level in Jordan, His Majesty the King. This will put the Israelis against the tough option of dealing with the PLO, dropping both the Jordanian option as advocated by the Israeli Labour Party and the Camp David option advocated by (Israeli Likud leader and Prime Minister Yitzhak) Shamir. The (Jordanian) move is positive."

The mission of the PLO team in Amman, according to Khalaf, is to "discuss the future and questions on how to move towards an international conference in which Jordan, Syria and the PLO participate on equal footing, either in separate delegations or in a joint Arab delegation."

"They will also discuss the relations between Jordan and the PLO at this stage and in the next stage, after the establishment of a Palestinian state by which a well-researched unity between the two identities will also be established," he said.

Lebanese presidential elections set for Aug. 18

BEIRUT (Agencies) — Lebanon's Parliament Speaker Hussein Husseini announced Saturday that the house would meet Aug. 18 to elect a new president for a six-year term.

Political apparatus to face a possible nomination of Syrian-backed former President Suleiman Franjiel for the presidency.

The militia strongly opposes Syria's military presence in Lebanon.

But despite the announcement there was no evidence of a state of alert or details of what the militia intends to do if Franjiel, a long-time ally of Syria, decides to run for election.

Franjiel has not officially announced whether he will stand but LF officials say he has told

Damascus he will and has received Syria's blessing.

The presidential election Thursday will be the eighth since Lebanon's independence from French rule in 1943, and the 14th since the state of Lebanon was first created during the French mandate.

On Aug. 23, 1982, the current president's younger brother, Bashir Gemayel, was elected president. He was assassinated in a bomb explosion Sept. 14, nine days before he was due to assume office.

Witness in RJ hijack case detained in U.S.

WASHINGTON (AP) — A Middle Eastern man has been jailed as a possible witness in the case of the 1985 hijacking of a Royal Jordanian (RJ) airliner, following U.S. concerns he may not testify fearing for his family's safety in Beirut.

Prosecutors disclosed in court last month that two airline crew members are in protective custody after agreeing to come to the U.S. and testify against Younis. U.S. prosecutors also reportedly have filed a motion to compel Ajami to give a sworn deposition about the case, according to sources who demanded anonymity.

Justice Department spokesman John Russell declined to comment.

Younis was arrested last September after he was lured aboard a yacht in the Mediterranean. He is charged with leading the June 11, 1985, hijacking of a Royal Jordanian airliner in Beirut.

Federal prosecutors have jurisdiction to prosecute the case because the plane was carrying several Americans. No date has been set for Younis' trial in U.S. district court here.

The trial is being delayed while prosecutors appeal a U.S. judge's ruling that the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) illegally obtained statements from Younis during a four-day interrogation following his arrest at sea.

The judge ruled the admissions could not be used as evidence against Younis because the defendant did not understand his constitutional protection against self-incrimination.

The Royal Jordanian airliner was hijacked by four armed men and forced to fly to several locations in the Mediterranean.

Following its return to Beirut the next day, the jetliner was blown up after 74 passengers and crew members were taken off the aircraft.

Hizbullah assails U.N. over Higgins

BEIRUT (AP) — An official of the Iranian-backed Hizbullah (Party of God) Saturday attacked the U.N. Security Council for demanding the release of kidnapped U.S. marine Lieutenant-Colonel William Higgins.

"We denounce and condemn the U.N. Security Council which accepted to allow such an agent (Higgins) to confront our people," said Abbas Mousawi, a ranking Hizbullah official.

"The arrest (of Higgins) was in defence of our nation's honour, dignity and existence," Mousawi added in an interview with the weekly Al Nahar Arab and International Magazine.

The Security Council July 29

unanimously condemned politically motivated kidnappings in the Middle East and appealed for the immediate release of Higgins, who headed a 76-member U.N. observer group in South Lebanon.

Higgins, 43, was abducted near the southern port city of Tyre Feb. 17.

Higgins' pro-Iranian kidnappers, the Underground Organisation of the Oppressed on Earth, said April 21 he would be put on trial on charges of spying for the United States.

The United States and the United Nations have denied the spying charge.

JORDAN MARKET PLACE

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World faces higher food prices

LONDON (R) — Traders forecast higher farm prices Friday after the United States said its worst drought in 50 years would mean huge crop losses.

The drought has tilted world more meat on Soviet tables. cereal stocks from surplus to wards.

But after initial sharp rises in

Europe and then in the big Chicago market, futures prices for wheat, corn (maize) and soybeans shed some of the gains.

Higher prices might be good for farmers but would be a dismal outlook for debt-laden Third World buyers for whom less food may now be available as aid.

"I wouldn't be surprised to see wheat prices at \$200 a tonne by this time next year," said one London-based trader.

The price for high quality milling wheat was around \$100 a tonne ago. It is \$140 now.

Traders said firm indications of how prices will move emerge only when big buyers like the Soviet Union enter the markets having held off pending the latest crop forecast by the U.S. Agriculture Department.

This was issued Thursday.

It said the U.S. corn (maize) harvest may drop 37 per cent this year. Wheat output would fall 13 per cent and that of soybeans would be down 23 per cent to the lowest since 1976.

The U.N. Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO) in Rome said earlier Thursday that the drought losses would bring world cereal stocks next year down to "the minimum level FAO considers necessary to safeguard food security."

Western Europe expects a bumper harvest this year but drought has also affected China and slightly reduced estimates of the Soviet crop.

U.S. officials see a possibility that the Soviet Union and many Third World countries may have trouble buying food in 1989.

The FAO says Third World importers may face difficulties in coming months because of possibly higher prices and lower aid shipments.

A Geneva-based trader said Friday: "If I were a potential buyer my personal feeling is I'd start booking now as prices may be even higher later."

The market will closely watch the Soviet Union and China, the most unpredictable buyers, and to a lesser extent India.

Just before release of the American crop figures, the Soviet Union bought soybean meal and corn for feeding to livestock from Argentina and Brazil — presumably under Kremlin leader Mikhail Gorbachev's drive to put

sive export drive so as not to strain its budget with much bigger handouts to farmers — it subsidises cereal exports — as well as to avoid arousing the wrath of the U.S. Congress.

Also at stake is the current round of world trade negotiations in the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT) which are taking place against a background of charges of unfair subsidies on both sides of the Atlantic.

Traders polled by Reuter correspondents therefore predict a rise in EC exports as a result of the U.S. drought but say farmers will not get a walkover.

The Americans are maintaining a very competitive edge, so the Community is still facing stiff competition," said Brian Gardner of Researchers Policy Analysis Brussels.

Traders in West Germany say world grain demand is likely to remain stagnant or decline slightly, particularly as the Soviet Union, the biggest importer, looks set to bring in a good crop.

The U.S. Department of Agriculture predicts that EC wheat exports will rise this year to 29.7 million tonnes from 27.68 million.

Exports of coarse grains used mainly for animal feed will grow to 22.79 million tonnes from 19.97 million.

European traders calculate that the EC could capture 18 per cent of the world grain market this year, up from around 14 per cent last year.

Rising prices of U.S. maize and soybeans also give European farmers a chance to regain the animal feed market, where cheaper American products have been squeezing out domestic grains.

French analysts reckon that European farmers lost five million tonnes last year in the animal feed market to U.S. imports. But traders say they could regain up to half of that figure this year.

The EC cereal harvest this year is expected to rise to 160.5 million tonnes, comfortably up from 154.4 million last year, according to Coercer, the EC cereal traders' organisation.

If this is correct, it will mean a three-per-cent price cut for EC farmers as it just tops a 160 million tonne ceiling agreed in February as a trigger for subsidy reductions.

But many analysts say member states may underestimate crop figures to avoid price cuts.

France is heading for a near record wheat harvest of 29 million tonnes but this has been balanced by poor crop outlooks

in Italy.

GNP may fall

In Washington, the U.S. drought will reduce American economic growth by 0.3 to 0.4 percentage points during 1988, a report by the White House inter-agency drought task force said Friday.

The estimates, however, do not represent an official revision in the White House projection of a 3.0 per cent rise in the gross national product (GNP) from the fourth quarter 1987 to the fourth quarter 1988.

On July 15, the task force estimated that the drought would reduce GNP growth by 0.2 percentage points. Since then the drought has spread and estimates of crop losses have grown.

"Despite recent rains, the drought of 1988 approaches the severity of the worst droughts on record," the task force said. Extreme or severe drought conditions now affect 43 per cent of the nation, compared with 62 per cent at the height of the 1934 drought, 48 per cent in 1956, and 46 per cent in 1936.

"The severe drought does not substantially alter the prospects for the performance of the U.S. economy in 1988 and 1989," the report said. "Nevertheless, temporary fluctuations in estimated real GNP growth may be experienced in the next few quarters because of the drought."

The report increased its estimate of drought-induced farm-production losses to between \$11 billion and \$15 billion in real terms, based on 1982 farm prices. The July 15 report estimated \$5 billion to \$10 billion in losses.

Thursday the U.S. Agriculture Department estimated that U.S. farmers would produce 31 per cent less grain this year in 1987.

Actual farm income is expected to remain about the same in 1987, the report said, because farmers will sell inventory on hand, and crop prices are higher, the report said.

The total value of farm exports also is expected to increase in both 1988 and 1989, due to the higher prices.

"For other sectors of the economy, the full impacts of the drought are not yet known," the task force said. It continued to estimate damage from disrupted cargo traffic at \$1 billion.

In addition, the task force retained its estimate that higher food prices caused by the drought would increase the inflation rate by 0.2 percentage points in 1988 and 0.3 points in 1989.

AMMAN FINANCIAL MARKET

Activity on the Amman Financial Market for August 13, 1988.

Number Volume Contracts

74456 JD 110121 158

Top three companies:

Arab Bank Limited 240 JD 25778 11

Arab Aluminium Manufacturing Industrial, Commercial and Agricultural (Inta) 9850 JD 16066 22

6610 JD 7907 12

5249 JD 2355 —

Parallel market:

Development bonds: — — —

Treasury bills & bonds: — — —

Other debentures: — — —

AMMAN EXCHANGE RATES

Saturday rates

Local sell/buy rates in fils

Belgian franc (for 10)	94.2	95.1	Saudi riyal	101.0	102.0
Dutch guilder	174.4	176.1	Syrian lira (for JD 1)	95.0	97.0
French franc	58.1	58.7	Lebanese lira (for JD 1)	870.0	900.0
Italian lira (for 100)	26.6	26.9	Iraqi dinar	460.0	480.0
Japanese yen (for 100)	279.2	282.0	Kuwaiti dinar	1320.0	1340.0
Swedish krona	57.5	58.1	Egyptian pound	160.0	165.0
Swiss franc	235.6	238.0	U.S. dollar	103.0	104.0
U.K. sterling pound	636.7	643.1	Qatar dirham	102.0	103.5
U.S. dollar	371.1	375.1	Omani riyal	980.0	990.0
Deutschmark	197.30	199.30	Bahraini dinar	1000.0	1001.0

JORDAN BUSINESS DIRECTORY

Ministry of Industry and Trade	663191	Jordan Commercial Centres Corporation	603507
Ministry of Supply	602121	Free Zones Corporation	642001
Ministry of Finance	636321	Amman Financial Market	660170
Ministry of Planning	644466	Amman Chamber of Commerce	66151
Ministry of Labour	663186	Amman Chamber of Industry	64747
Ministry of Communications	847391	Association of Banks in Jordan	662238
Ministry of Agriculture	639391	Jordan Association of Insurance	647370
Income Tax Department	660151	Real Estate Corporation	646171
Central Bank of Jordan	630301	Jordan Industrial Estates Association	680663
Amman Customs Department	772181	General Statistics Department	646171
Social Security Corporation	643000	Jordanian Businessmen Association	680663
Corporation	721194		

ABA to open main office in Amman

AMMAN (Petra, J.T.) — The Arab Bankers Association (ABA) is currently making preparations to open a banking training institute to be headquartered in Amman to further bolster cooperation among Arab banks and among bankers, according to ABA member and chairman of the board of directors of the Cairo-Amman Bank Jawdat Sha'sha.

He told the first session of a training course for senior bank officials from 12 Arab countries that banks in Arab countries in general and Jordan in particular are called upon to help set up the projected institute by providing financial help and sending its staff for training in various banking services.

The success of ABA so far greatly depended on Arab banks support, Sha'sha said. Central Bank of Jordan (CBJ) Governor Hussein Al Qasem made the opening speech at the first session of the six-day course which was attended by 35 delegates.

Qasem said that sound banking operations rely greatly on sound internal organisation, control and accomplishment of services on schedule.

Qasem said that the Arab central banks have issued proper regulations which are designed to help organise and control the work of banks. The present training course, he said, will address matters related to internal control of operations.

The London-based ABA was founded in 1980 with the purpose of coordinating interests of Arab bankers, improving relations with other countries, preparing studies for development projects in the Arab World, administering a

code for arbitration between financial institutions and providing training for Arab bankers.

Banking and financial institutions

Name of company	Number of shares	Volume of trade	Opening price	Closing price	Par value
Industrial Development Bank	1255	1845	1.500	1.470	1.000
Petra Bank	5000	9850	1.970	1.970	1.000
Jordan Islamic Bank	897	1536	1.710	1.720	1.000
Jordan Kuwait Bank	3887	5488	1.410	1.410	1.000
Jordan Gulf Bank	40979	50174	1.250	1.220	1.000
Housing Bank	452	834	1.860	1.850	1.000
Arab Jordan Investment Bank	—	—	—	—	1.000
Cairo Amman Bank	—	—	—	—	5.000
Bank of Jordan	756	11151	14.860	14.800	5.000
Arab Bank	854	91527	109.000	107.500	10.000
Jordan National Bank	13425	33508	2.520	2.500	1.000
Jordan Finance House for Development	12750	11787	0.920	0.930	1.000
National Financial Investments	34300	54827	2.050	2.010	1.000
National Portfolio Securities	4425	7965	1.800	1.800	1.000
Arab Finance Corporation (Jordan)	6926	4561	0.680	0.680	1.000
Jordan Securities Corporation	1700	2333	1.380	1.350	1.000
Real Estate Financing Corporation	6149	4622	0.760	0.750	1.000
Al Miskra Exchange	25	375	16.000	15.000	1.000

Insurance and reinsurance

Jordan French Insurance	900	4123	4.600	4.350	1.000

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SPORTS IN BRIEF

Aouita wins comfortable 800 metres

BUDAPEST (R) — Said Aouita ran cleverly and comfortably within his limits to hold off Senegal's Moussa Fall and win the 800 metres at the Budapest Grand Prix athletics meeting Friday. Gaining valuable experience for his attempt at an 800 and 1,500 metres double at the Seoul Olympics next month, Aouita cruised to victory in one minute 45.42 seconds. Although he was well short of the best time in the world this year — American Johnny Gray's 1:43.70 — the Moroccan double world record holder ran an impressive tactical race. He held back as the nine runners broke from their lanes on the back straight, then cruised past to tuck into second place for the rest of the first lap. Fall made his move with 350 metres to go, taking the lead and causing Aouita to lengthen his stride. Into the home straight Aouita kicked, went past Fall with 80 metres to go and held off the Senegalese's counter-attack to win by one metre. Fall clocked 1:45.66 and Dieudonne Kzwira of Burundi was third in 1:45.96.

Soviet soccer clubs to pay their own way

MOSCOW (R) — Soviet soccer clubs will soon have to pay their own way as Kremlin leader Mikhail Gorbachev's "perestroika" restructuring programme spreads to sport. The official TASS news agency said the government had on Friday endorsed a document which will put individual soccer clubs on a self-accounting and self-financing basis. Each club will be able to set up specialised shops and cafés, produce sports souvenirs and advertise, TASS said. But it did not make clear what would happen to proceeds of ticket sales or whether players would be bought and sold as in Western soccer leagues. Soviet soccer clubs have traditionally been supported by the state. Most are at present attached to large organisations such as trade unions, factories, ministries or the army. But a debate has been raging here for years over whether Soviet sportsmen should be allowed to turn professional. National soccer coach Valery Lobanovsky said it is time to recognise some sportsmen are professional in all but name. TASS said a new Soviet soccer union grouping players, coaches and referees would also be set up, aimed at giving them a greater say in the running of the game. Its first conference would be held soon.

Fenech wants to unify boxing titles

MELBOURNE (R) — Australian Jeff Fenech wants to unify the three world featherweight titles after his destruction of Tyrone Downes of Trinidad in five rounds to retain the World Boxing Council (WBC) crown. Fenech, who scored his 18th win inside the distance in 21 unbeaten fights Friday night, said he would try

GOREN BRIDGE

BY CHARLES GOREN
AND OMAR SHARIF
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A LITTLE LEARNING ISN'T ALWAYS DANGEROUS

Neither vulnerable. North deals.

NORTH
♦ A Q J 8 4
♦ A 8 6 3
K 7
♦ K 9 5

WEST
♦ 7 3
Q 10 4 2
9 8 6 5
♦ J 8 4

SOUTH
K 10 2
K J 9 7 5
A 4 2
♦ 6 3

The bidding:
North East South West
1 ♠ 2 ♠ 2 ♠ Pass
3 ♠ Pass 4 ♠ Pass
Pass Pass

Opening lead: Four of ♠

We have a friend, an old-time bridge player, who boasts of the fact that he plays "by the seat of his pants." From time to time we tell him that only proves that he is sitting on his brains — there is nothing wrong about learning something about the game from books and articles. Safety plays are a case in point.

Four hearts is a perfectly normal contract to reach on the North-South hands. It was bid quickly, and lost just as fast.

West led a low club, East took two high clubs and then shifted to the queen of diamonds. Our friend, the declarer, won in hand, led a trump to the ace and eventually conceded two trump tricks for down one.

Now the 4-0 split was indeed unlucky, but the heart combination was old news for anyone familiar with safety plays. It can be found in any standard book on play.

Once the defenders had taken their club tricks, the contract was safe as long as declarer could hold his losers in the trump suit to one. If trumps were no worse than 3-1, declarer could not lose more than one trick. Only a 4-0 trump break could present a threat.

Since the only missing high cards in the suit were the Q-10, that distribution could be neutralized no matter which defender held the length. All declarer had to do at trick four was to lay down the king of trumps!

Suppose West had shown out. Declarer would then continue with a trump to his ace and another back to his jack, and East would get only one trick. And as the cards lie, East shows out on the first heart, so declarer continues with a low heart toward dummy. Whether or not West goes in with a honor, he will be held to one trick. Try it.

WBA to crown Molinares as champ

CARACAS, Venezuela (AP) — The World Boxing Association (WBA) said Friday it would crown Tomas Molinares as world

welterweight champion despite the New Jersey State Athletic Commission's decision to void his victory over Marlon Starling. "The Colombian Tomas Molinares, new champion of the welterweight division of the WBA, will be recognised by the principal authorities of this organisation," the WBA said in a statement from its headquarters in Maracay, Venezuela. The WBA said Molinares would be honoured at a special ceremony "in which he will be presented with the sash that accredits him as the new world monarch at 147 pounds." The statement said WBA president Gilberto Mendoza will go to Barranquilla, Colombia Saturday for the crowning ceremony. In their July 30 title fight in Atlantic City, Molinares knocked out the American Starling with a punch apparently delivered a fraction of second after the bell sounded to end the sixth round. Referee Joe Cortez declared the blow valid. On Thursday, New Jersey Athletic Commissioner Larry Hazzard said Molinares' victory would not be recognised because the punch came late.

Poll says Americans think it unfair fight

SAN DIEGO (R) — Most Americans think it isn't fair that two radically different boats will race for the America's Cup next month, according to results of a national poll commissioned by the New Zealand challengers. The survey of 1,050 Americans conducted this week by the Gallup organisation showed that 53 per cent believed it was not fair that the San Diego defenders were racing a catamaran against the monohulled sloop of New Zealand. Thirty-four per cent said it was fair and 13 per cent said they didn't know. "This is the ultimate proof of the American sense of fair play," said Michael Fay, who heads the Challengers' Syndicate. "Now we are clear on the difference between the Sail America way and the American way." Sail America officials told Reuters they could not comprehend the significance of the poll. "It's hard to comment on something that has no meaning," said Tom Mitchell. "Maybe Fay will be kissing babies next week." The best-of-three series for the cup is scheduled to begin on Sept. 7.

Baseball Standings

NEW YORK (AP) — Major league baseball standings after Friday's games:

American League
East Division

	W	L	Pct.
Detroit	68	46	.596
Boston	65	50	.565
New York	63	49	.563
Milwaukee	60	57	.513
Toronto	59	58	.504
Cleveland	54	62	.466
Baltimore	37	77	.325

West Division

	W	L	Pct.
Oakland	74	43	.632
Minnesota	64	50	.561
Kansas City	59	56	.513
Califonia	58	58	.500
Texas	50	63	.442
Chicago	51	65	.379
Seattle	44	72	.295

National League
East Division

	W	L	Pct.
New York	68	47	.591
Montreal	62	52	.544
Pittsburgh	63	53	.543
Chicago	58	57	.500
Philadelphia	51	64	.443
St. Louis	51	64	.443

West Division

	W	L	Pct.
Los Angeles	64	50	.561
Houston	62	53	.544
San Francisco	61	54	.530
Cincinnati	57	57	.500
San Diego	54	61	.470
Atlanta	40	75	.348

Brazil names Olympic soccer squad

RIO DE JANEIRO, Brazil (AP)

— Brazilian team coach Carlos Alberto Silva Friday named 20 players to the Olympic soccer squad but threatened to leave the team if players on foreign clubs don't show up for training.

Starters Andrade, Valdo and Edmar recently transferred to European clubs, and it was unclear whether they would be released to play for the Brazilian national team.

The 20-player squad named Friday was essentially the same team that in June won the Bicentennial Tournament in Australia. But there were a few surprises.

Neto, a 21-year-old midfielder of Guarani, was named for the first time to the national squad. Neto has been a standout for Guarani during its excellent campaign in the recent Sao Paulo State Championship and the current liberators of America Cup tournament.

Attackers Bebeto, of Flamengo, and Joao Paulo, of Guarani, also were named again to the national team after a one-year hiatus.

However, Silva said he would not tolerate a repeat of the confusion that preceded a recent European tour, when many starters didn't show up because they were negotiating their transfer to foreign clubs and there weren't enough players to hold practice.

"It won't happen again because I'll only show up if all the players do too," Silva said Friday.

The players were to report Tuesday for medical exams and start training immediately in the mountain resort town of Teresopolis, near Rio.

Woodforde ousts McEnroe, reaches semifinals of Canadian Open tennis

TORONTO (R) — Australian Mark Woodforde scored another major upset by using his head as well as a barrage of well-placed passing shots to beat John McEnroe to reach the semifinals of the Canadian Open tennis tournament Friday.

Woodforde, who earlier eliminated second-seeded Swede Stefan Edberg, beat the eighth-seeded McEnroe 6-2, 2-6, 6-2 to earn a semifinals match against Kevin Curren.

Curren, the 14th seed, outlasted sixth-seeded fellow American Tim Mayotte 3-6, 6-4, 7-5 in his quarterfinal.

The other semifinal on Saturday will top seed Ivan Lendl going against Jimmy Connors.

Lendl swept past unseeded Australian John Frawley 6-2, 6-2 while the fourth-seeded Connors squeezed by fifth seed Pat Cash of Australia 7-6, 7-6 with a pair of tiebreak decisions.

Woodforde, a 22-year-old red-headed lefthander who is ranked 50th in the world, fired in six aces and broke McEnroe twice in the first set.

After falling to McEnroe in the second set, Woodforde broke McEnroe to go up 3-2 and then again to take a 5-2 lead in the third set before serving out the

match at love.

He buried his head in his hands and shook his head in disbelief as the crowd of 10,000 gave him a standing ovation after the match.

"Mark played an excellent match. He used his head very well and he mixed up his shots instead of just hitting balls as hard as he could," said McEnroe.

"I'd like to get another shot at him. He's a guy who has a chance to get into the top 25. He's a dangerous player," said McEnroe, who is currently ranked 17th.

Woodforde, who had never before played, McEnroe, was thrilled.

"John's one of the all-time greats. I just had to come out and play my best tennis," he said.

Connors, 35, withstood court-side temperatures that hit 44 degrees Celsius in beating the 1987 Wimbledon champion.

Connors said he enjoyed the challenge but was glad his match ended when it did.

Evert, 31, was not surprised by her first-set lapse.

In Los Angeles, Chris Evert recovered from an early lapse to beat fellow-American Patty Fenwick Friday and advance to the semifinals of the \$300,000 Los Angeles women's tennis tournament.

Evert, playing in her first tournament since her recent marriage, won the last eight games in taking a 6-4, 6-0 victory over the sixth-seeded Fenwick.

Opposing the top-seeded Evert in Saturday's semifinal will be Stephanie Reihe who upset fourth seed Lori McNeil 6-1, 3-6, 6-4.

The other semifinal will have third seed Gabriela Sabatini of Argentina playing fifth-seeded American Zina Garrison.

Sabatini beat seventh seed Anne Minter of Australia 6-2, 6-4,

while Garrison crushed her 15-year-old compatriot Amy Frazier 6-1, 6-2 to advance.

Evert, third in the world, raced to a 4-1 lead in the first set, playing her usual baseline game and keeping the aggressive Fenwick away from the net with her passing shots.

Evert said she was not surprised by her first-set lapse.

AC Milan plays Bayern Munich in Wembley International Tournament

LONDON (AP) — Its image tarnished by a new wave of crowd violence, English soccer begins its reparation process Saturday when Wembley stadium stages a four-team tournament involving a dozen of the biggest names in Europe — AC Milan and Bayern Munich.

Milan's Dutch soccer aces

Ruud Gullit, Marco van Basten and Frank Rijkaard, who powered their country to success in the European Championships, will be in action at the home of English soccer in a four-team competition which also features Arsenal and Tottenham Hotspur.

Because of continued crowd violence involving its followers, English soccer has been ostracised from the rest of Europe at club level since the 1985 champions' cup final between Liverpool and Italy's Juventus in Brussels' Heysel stadium, where 39 people were killed in a stampede caused by rioting fans.

Believing they had curbed the violence, English clubs asked to be readmitted. But following fresh outbreaks of trouble at the end of last season and at the European Championships, they withdrew their application.

Against a backdrop of elaborate measures to avoid crowd trouble at Wembley, two of England's most famous clubs will battle with Italy's AC Milan and West Germany's Bayern Munich Saturday and Sunday in a competition known as the Wembley International Tournament.

The two north London teams meet Saturday in a tournament opener, followed by the Milan-

Bayern clash. On Sunday, the winner of the first game plays the loser of the second, and the two other teams do battle in the final match.

To the teams, the competition

is a pre-season warm-up along the lines of the San Francisco 49ers-Miami Dolphins football game at the same stadium two weeks ago.

Tensions ease in Burma

BANGKOK (R) — Burmese took to the streets of Rangoon dancing and chanting to celebrate the resignation of hardline Socialist leader Sein Lwin after five days of bloody agitation against his brief rule, residents said.

"Our victory, people's victory," they chanted, crowding into suburban streets despite an overnight curfew after Rangoon radio announced Friday that Sein Lwin had quit just 18 days after taking over from his long-time mentor, Ne Win.

The news appeared to have brought a measure of calm to a country rocked since Monday by violent protests for democracy in which diplomats said hundreds of people were killed.

Residents and diplomats contacted from Bangkok said Rangoon was calm Saturday, with many of the protesters' barricades dismantled, shops re-opening and people returning to the city centre.

"There is a general air of returning normality," said one senior envoy.

One traveller arriving in Bangkok from Rangoon Saturday said

flew to Bangkok after a week in Rangoon.

He said there was enormous relief among students over the resignation of Sein Lwin, the least popular man in the country for his long-time role in suppressing opposition.

"The group I was with when the announcement came cheered. But they couldn't go out in the streets because of the curfew," he said.

By official accounts almost 100 people have died as troops opened fire on mass demonstrations in cities across the country, but diplomats put the figure anywhere between 500 and 1,500.

Students told visitors the departure of Sein Lwin was just a first step and they were encouraged to pursue to the end their demand for a more democratic system.

Diplomats said it was difficult to predict what would happen next.

Few believed the BSPP would be willing to surrender the absolute grip on power it has held since it was formed after Ne Win took over in a 1962 coup.

An emergency party congress July 25 rejected a proposal by Ne Win in his final speech as leader that the people should be asked in a referendum whether the single-party system should be scrapped and the country be returned to multi-party democracy.

"Although one man (Sein Lwin) has been removed, the system is still in place," one diplomat said.

He said the party chiefs may be contemplating some form of collective leadership in place of the autocratic style of Ne Win, described by one ambassador as "an absolute dictator without whom nothing of significance was ever decided."

Ne Win's role in the present leadership crisis was not known and there was only speculation about possible future leaders.

"People are waiting until next week to see who emerges," said one diplomat contacted from Bangkok.

A U.S. political scientist who has written several books on Burma said Friday he thought Kyaw Htin was a possible successor to Sein Lwin.



A South Korean student slings riot police helmets over his shoulder after radical students decided to return them to police. The helmets were captured in

Seoul students battle police in effort to march to border

SEOUL (AP) — Radical students battled riot police in scattered clashes Saturday in an effort to break through human barriers aimed at preventing a march to the border for reunification talks with North Korean students.

Shopkeepers and residents near college campuses staged counter-demonstrations, urging students to halt unrest, which they said hurts business and would mar next month's Olympic Games in the capital.

Also Saturday, a senior government official said the govern-

ment was considering "a grave decision" this fall to protect the nation from leftist forces. Newspapers and political analysts interpreted the remarks as suggesting a crackdown on dissent after the games.

Kim Yong-Kap, the minister

for government administration, accused the students of seeking to disrupt the Olympics and overthrow the government and said, "the government cannot but make a grave decision after the Olympics if the current political situation continues."

A former military officer, Kim

Crowds wait hours to pack 'Last Temptation'

LOS ANGELES (R) — Crowds waited up to five hours to pack cinemas for the opening of the controversial film "The Last Temptation of Christ," ignoring bible-carrying protesters who apparently gave the film a big publicity boost.

In Los Angeles, 75 demonstrators, many belonging to conservative religious groups, carried banners reading "Jesus is the Lord" and "don't distort his story," and sang hymns to the waiting cinemagoers.

The Catholic Bishops' Department of Communications in New

York has rated the film as morally offensive, meaning it is regarded as unsuitable for showing to the 53 million Catholics in the United States.

The picture, which cost only \$6.5 million to make and would normally be given only a limited showing as an art film, packed both Los Angeles cinemas in which it was shown Friday night.

"We know controversy sells tickets, but we are also concerned about violence," an official of Universal Studios, which is distributing the film, said.

The film shows a dream sequence in which Jesus, played by Willem Dafoe, of the Vietnam war film "Platoon," makes love to Mary Magdalene.

In New York, another of the eight cities chosen for the first showing of the film, 1,000 people lined up to see the film at the Ziegfeld Theatre while 300 demonstrators staged protests.

WORLD NEWS IN BRIEF

Mandela hospitalised for lung trouble

CAPE TOWN (R) — Jailed South African nationalist leader Nelson Mandela is being treated in hospital for fluid around the lung, a hospital spokesman said Saturday. Dr. J. Strauss, superintendent at Cape Town's Tygerberg hospital, said in a statement that Mandela, 70, imprisoned for life in 1964, was admitted Friday and was undergoing tests for a "left-sided pleural effusion." He is comfortable and in a satisfactory condition," Strauss added.

Pakistan to lease U.S. frigates

WASHINGTON (AP) — Pakistan, long troubled by the naval build-up of rival India, has struck a deal to lease up to eight of the 16 U.S. navy frigates the U.S. Defence Department is retiring for budget reasons, officials said. Lieutenant Barbara Kent, a navy spokeswoman, said Friday Congress was informed of the deal in a letter written by Rear Admiral Thomas C. Lynch, the navy's chief of legislative affairs. Congress has 30 days to block the transaction if it wishes to do so, the spokeswoman said. Kent said Pakistan would be allowed to inspect nine frigates. According to another official who asked not to be named, however, Pakistani officials have been told they can lease a maximum of eight of the warships.

U.S., Laos to discuss missing men

WASHINGTON (R) — The United States said Friday Laos had agreed to hold talks later this month to prepare for further joint excavation activities in the search for Americans missing in the Indochina war. State Department Spokesman Charles Redman said U.S. and Laotian officials and technical experts would meet in Vientiane Aug. 22 and 23. The talks will cover a number of issues of bilateral concern but the special focus will be "joint efforts to resolve the humanitarian issue of Americans still missing and unaccounted for in Laos," he told reporters.

Reagan urged not to suspend ABM

WASHINGTON (R) — A bipartisan group of 42 U.S. Senators has written a letter to President Reagan, urging him not to suspend the 1972 Anti-Ballistic Missile Treaty because the Soviet Union started to build an illegal radar complex. The letter was made public Friday by Democratic Senator Edward Kennedy of Massachusetts and signed by 37 Democrats and five Republicans. The senators noted the radar at Krasnoyarsk, in Siberia, is a violation of the treaty but said the Soviet Union has halted construction and signalled its willingness to dismantle the complex.

Meese ends controversial term

WASHINGTON (R) — Edwin Meese has ended his controversial three-year term as U.S. attorney general with a parting shot at members of Congress who often criticised him. Before leaving office Friday, Meese issued an order giving future attorneys general the power to name independent counsels to investigate alleged criminal violations by members of the House and Senate.

Column 8

Man takes lengthy detour to the dentist

PELL CITY, Alabama (AP) — A man who took a 1,800-kilometre detour when he got lost on his way to the dentist finally ended up in the chair and got new dentures — for free — but not before his new driver also got lost. Frank Collier, a 76-year-old retired mill worker from Centreville, received national attention last month when he lost his way while driving to get his new dentures from a Pell City clinic 120 kilometres from his home. Collier, who had never left west Alabama except for one other trip to Pell City, ended up on an interstate highway and drove all the way to Muncie, Indiana, 901-kilometre journey. Police assisted him with directions and in getting in touch with relatives and friends, who drove him back. "I got on that interstate and didn't know how to get off," he said Thursday. "I just kept a-goin', kept a-goin', right out of the state, almost out of the country."

Dukakis sleeps in Taylor's bed

RICHMOND, Virginia (R) — Michael Dukakis told a breakfast audience Friday he had spent the previous night in Elizabeth Taylor's bed. The Democratic presidential candidate was a guest in Virginia's 75-year-old governor's mansion Thursday night during a campaign stop. He told a breakfast reception of party leaders afterward: "I never thought that I would sleep in a bed that the Marquis de Lafayette had slept in, that Winston Churchill had slept in, Dwight David Eisenhower had slept in, Elizabeth Taylor had slept in ..." The last name brought a roar of laughter from the crowd and the Massachusetts governor quickly added a tribute to his wife, Kitty, standing with him on the platform.

Baldness remedy close to approval

KALAMAZOO, Michigan (AP) — A remedy for baldness developed by the Upjohn company is one step closer to final U.S. government approval, company officials have announced. The Kalamazoo-based pharmaceutical company said it received an "approvable" letter from the U.S. Food and Drug Administration for its topical minoxidil preparation for the treatment of male pattern baldness, developed under the trade name Rogaine. An "approvable" letter is "historically the last step before final approval" for marketing, company spokesman R.D. Larue said.

Similar protests have greeted other recent films with religious subjects.

In November of 1985, Pope John Paul II led thousands of Catholics in reciting a rosary to repair the damage done to the Virgin Mary by the French film "Hail Mary," then playing in Rome.

YORK COUNTY TAXES MUCH TOO HIGH

YORK, Pennsylvania (AP) — Everybody complains that their taxes are too high, but hundreds of York County residents really had something to gripe about. More than 400 people received personal property tax bills this week in excess of \$1 million, including one woman who got one for \$21 million. The error affected about five per cent of 8,000 property owners and kept assessment office phones ringing for two days. The annual tax bills cover personal property, such as stocks and other investments. Chief assessor Steve Anderson blamed the mix-up on new employees in the personal property tax division entering data incorrectly on a new computer system.

Woodstock troubles town residents

BETHEL, New York (AP) — Woodstock, the rock 'n' roll festival that came to symbolise the 1960s for a generation of Americans, is again at the centre of a controversy, this time over how big its 20th anniversary celebration should be. On one side is the Bethel Town Board, which meets Wednesday night to discuss whether to allow voters to decide what to do about next August's anniversary. On the other side are concert promoters who want to re-create the original Woodstock, which wasn't actually held in that town but kilometres away on Max Yasgur's farm in Bethel. Town supervisor Alan Scott said Bethel is against any extravaganzas on the scale of the first Woodstock, which drew nearly a half million people and endured heavy rains, lack of food and sanitation facilities, drug overdoses and enormous traffic jams. And promoters want to capitalise on the good memories that the festival left in the minds of a generation. Woodstock came to symbolise the sexual freedom, hedonism and radical politics that developed in the 1960s.

Laurel urges Aquino to quit

MANILA (AP) — Vice President Salvador Laurel Saturday accused President Corazon Aquino of incompetence and urged her to resign.

He called for new elections and said he would resign if Aquino did.

In a four-page letter that he read to reporters, Laurel accused Aquino of weak leadership against communist insurgency and of tolerating corruption on the scale of her deposed predecessor, Ferdinand Marcos.

"The essential step to ease the nation's suffering is yours alone and I would not wish to usurp it."

Laurel said, "Even if, in your conscience, you feel you must now make the supreme sacrifice by stepping down from the presidency and call for an immediate election to enable the people to choose another leader for these critical times, I want you to know that I am ready to make the same sacrifice with you."

Aquino gave no direct response to Laurel's resignation call.

But at the end of a news conference called to announce an oil-price rollback, Aquino charged that Laurel had not supported her enough, especially during coup attempts in November and last August.

Aquino said when she called members of her cabinet to an urgent meeting during a November 1986 coup attempt, Laurel did not show up until late in the afternoon "because he was playing golf."

"Can you imagine what would have happened if I waited for him while he played golf?" Aquino said.

Aquino and Laurel were initially rivals for the opposition presidential candidacy when Marcos called a special election in February 1986. Laurel gave way after being persuaded that only Aquino could unite the splintered opposition.



Salvador H. Laurel

Defiant Noriega marks fifth anniversary in power

PANAMA CITY, (R) — Military leader General Manuel Antonio Noriega, marking his fifth anniversary as head of the Panama defence forces Friday, said the United States would have to put up with him.

In a speech during a military and popular celebration of the anniversary, Noriega told the United States: "Keep your hands off of Panama."

"Forget about Noriega," he said. "Maybe Noriega is better than what is to come. Therefore it's preferable to put up with Noriega."

The United States is backing moves to force its former ally out of power and tried to negotiate a deal last May by which Noriega would step down in exchange for the dropping of two Florida indictments against him on drug trafficking charges.

But the talks collapsed and U.S. policy as well as the opposition movement in Panama have fallen into disarray as Noriega remains confident and in control.

Noriega addressed military and civilian dignitaries Friday and thousands of supporters gathered at a Panamanian air base for the anniversary celebration that included a military parade and a 21-gun salute.

The 50-year-old general's only reference to the elections was to repeat assurances that they would be honest.

The Catholic Bishops' Department of Communications in New

York has rated the film as morally offensive, meaning it is regarded as unsuitable for showing to the 53 million Catholics in the United States.

The picture, which cost only \$6.5 million to make and would normally be given only a limited showing as an art film, packed both Los Angeles cinemas in which it was shown Friday night.

"We know controversy sells tickets, but we are also concerned about violence," an official of Universal Studios, which is distributing the film, said.

The film shows a dream sequence in which Jesus, played by Willem Dafoe, of the Vietnam war film "Platoon," makes love to Mary Magdalene.

In New York, another of the eight cities chosen for the first showing of the film, 1,000 people lined up to see the film at the Ziegfeld Theatre while 300 demonstrators staged protests.

Religious groups also staged small, colourful demonstrations outside cinemas in Chicago, Washington, San Francisco, Seattle, Minneapolis and Toronto. In San Francisco, a demonstrator carried a 10-foot cross and another carried a banner reading "Hollywood's darkest hour."

Scorsese, a Roman Catholic, has pointed out the film is based on a 1955 novel, "The Last Temptation of Christ," by the late Greek writer Nikos Kazantzakis, and not on the gospel accounts of Jesus.

Similar protests have greeted other recent films with religious subjects.

In November of 1985, Pope John Paul II led thousands of Catholics in reciting a rosary to repair the damage done to the Virgin Mary by the French film "Hail Mary," then playing in Rome.

YORK COUNTY TAXES MUCH TOO HIGH

Fire put out at Empire State building

NEW YORK (AP) — A smoky two-alarm fire broke out Friday on the 86th floor of the Empire State Building and moved up a shaftway to the top floor of the 102-storey skyscraper before it was extinguished, the fire department said.

It took nearly two hours to put out the fires, and three firefighters required treatment for heat and smoke in the 34-degree cel-

sus weather. There was no immediate word on its cause.

One building occupant suffered a cut on the arm but declined treatment, fire department spokesman John Mulligan said.

No people were trapped, and there was no general evacuation, but people from the smoky upper floor were brought out from the landmark skyscraper, the city's second-tallest.

The 86th and 102nd floors are the sites of the building's popular observation decks, and tourists were evacuated from both.

Bishop described damage as moderate in the utility shaft.

Firefighters sped to the building after an alarm was telephoned at 1:01 p.m. (1701 GMT) by building employees who discovered the fire in a utility room on the 86th floor, said Mulligan.

The ceremony was held two days before the official 1980 strike anniversary, which falls on a Sunday this year, to allow more workers to attend, said the solidarity spokeswoman.

Walesa, wearing a Solidarity T-shirt, helped put wreaths and flowers on the monument, erected to honour striking ship-

ers' rejections of Managua as the site for more peace talks and also set several preconditions for the rebels' return to the bargaining table, including that Ortega attend future talks.

Ortega made his offer for new peace talks in Managua or Washington Friday during an official visit to Ecuador, following the inauguration of Ecuador's new president. He also criticised the U.S. Congress for approving new aid to the rebels, calling it an act of "aggression" and demanding that aid be halted.

Adolfo Calero, the rebel leader, Friday reiterated contra lead-

ers' rejections of Man